Balochistan Agricultural Project: GCP/PAK/113/USA

Balochistan Sheep and Wool Study Tour to Australia: lessons learned, action plans

8 – 31 January 2013

Islamabad
February 2013
**Wool and the Balochistan Agriculture Project**

At its heart, the Balochistan Agriculture Project and the Australian Assistance to Agriculture in Balochistan Border Areas project seek to increase livelihoods to rural producers in its project area in Balochistan. Wool is a product within the purview of the project. To date the project has introduced some major innovations into this industry. With production it has introduced battery-operated shearing; with “the bit in the middle”, it has introduced baling equipment and developed some primary grading based on colour and position on the animal; with marketing it has introduced some direct marketing and primary value adding through spinning and dyeing. Some of the innovations introduced by the project have resulted in income increases of around 80 percent for those who followed the advice. Women, as the primary carers of the animals and those responsible for first stage processing of the wool, have been major beneficiaries of the project’s wool activities.

Whilst the project’s activities were somewhat revolutionary steps when introduced two years ago, it was considered time to explore new equipment, techniques, and ideas. Thus, it was determined that a sheep and wool vocational study tour be sent to Australia.

Balochistan Agricultural Project covers a wide range of activities. For this reason the study tour members also examined machinery and techniques appropriate to Balochistan and its minimal access to electricity; appropriately sized slaughtering activities associated with the potential for Balochistan to develop exports of sheep and goat meat; vegetation-based remote sensing for management of the rangelands; and, policy development. Even casual visits to supermarkets resulted in lessons for grading and product presentations in fruit and vegetables.

As part of its expansion in 2012, the project now has a major policy capacity building component. For this reason, two officers from the Government of Balochistan accompanied the mission to concentrate on policy formation and development.

Australian Sheep and Wool Vocational Study Tour was funded by US Aid under Balochistan Agriculture Project GCP/PAK/113/USA

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International Project Manager  
Balochistan Agriculture Project, Australian Assistance to Agriculture in Balochistan Border Areas (GCP/PAK/113/USA, GCP/PAK/126/AUL),  
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GPO Box: 170, Quetta-87300, Pakistan
Balochistan - Australian Sheep and Wool Study Tour

Under the direction and guidance of the Food and Agriculture Organisation’s Pakistan Representative, Dr Kevin Gallagher, and the International Project Manager, Balochistan Agriculture Project, and Australian Assistance to Agriculture in Balochistan Border Areas, Mr David Doolan, a sheep and wool vocational study tour was developed for Australia.

Australia was chosen because of its extensive experience in sheep management and wool production. It has techniques and equipment that are just not available in Balochistan.

The study group comprised a sheep and a wool component. Between them, they were able to examine the entire sheep-and-wool value chain. The mission comprised 15 people – four sheep producers from Quetta and Mastung Districts, two private sector operators that have a close involvement with sheep and wool in Balochistan, some project staff, and two senior members of the Government of Balochistan. Five of the participants were females, including the project’s Livestock Assistant, the only such officer in Balochistan. The farmers were selected mainly on the criteria of their ability to pass on the lessons learned to their communities.

The Sheep Group studied the management of sheep, undertook shearing training, and became familiar with their equipment and its maintenance. It was decided that in order to expose the study group to a range of production conditions and sheep management conditions, two starkly different locations were chosen: Cooma in southern New South Wales, and Charleville in south west Queensland.

The Wool Group concentrated on dealing with wool after it leaves the farm. A major component of their training was dealing with value adding activities that could be done at the household level where rural women, one of the prime targets of the project, are based. When the Sheep Group went to Melbourne, the Wool Group went to Melbourne to study the marketing end of the value chain.

Conscious of the need to report back to as wide an audience as possible on what was learned from the mission, the following approach has been adopted. First, the report is in the form of the participant’s own words addressing two basic issues – what were the lessons they learned, and what is their action plan to promulgate these lessons. Second, a series of reporting back sessions have been developed that cover the regional office of the FAO in Bangkok, the US Consulate in Karachi, a donors’ meeting in Islamabad, and a public forum in Quetta.

The mission would not have been as successful as what it was without the incredible energy, initiative, knowledge, and dedication of Rowan and Sharon McDonald of Gurrabeal, Cooma, Ms Maxine Blyton of Jemalong Wool in Cooma, Ms Helen French of the Monaro Fibre Crafters, Mr David Carrigan of Brisbane, and my colleague on the project Dr Rob Erskine Smith. I happily acknowledge the great support the mission had from the FAO Representative and the International Project Manager.

Grant Vinning
International Marketing and Value Chain Specialist
Wool Shearing Mission – A glance on the training

Australian Wool trip has been a wonderful experience in my life. We had to go through a lengthy and circuitous process of identification of right persons for the job, with combination of participants which had in one or the other way some role in the wool value chain. Identification of airlines, ticketing, visas for 15 participants, each step had a great learning opportunity for the Team.

The wool training; it started for me when I held the first shearing hand piece and watched a video from Australia on shearing. I studied the hand piece and the video machine and thought I was a gun shearer. When I tried the hand piece with Habib-ur-Rehman, a farmer from Quetta, we realised that we were not gun shearers even though we managed to shear the animal in six minutes, a timing that was nearly unbelievable then. We really needed to learn more about the shearing techniques, controlling the animal, adjusting the tension on the comb and cutter, maintain the equipment and a thousand other small details.

In Australia we were well received by our hosts everywhere, the love and care showed to us made us once again feel that we are not the ones who are disliked most.

In Cooma, the shearing training was really something worth investing in. Three male and one female trainers were individually taking care of the training needs of seven of us. We initially learnt how to take control of the sheep utilizing our legs only. For the first time every trainee had the opportunity to get hold of the animal by himself, shear the animal through electric powered machine, learn various shearing techniques e.g. short blow, long blow and triangle method of shearing. Use of shepherded dogs in herd management was magnificent experience for all and in the long run a cost saving activity.

Apart from this, we were taken to a number of facilities enriching our knowledge and experience. Jemalong Wool Collection Center was fascinating in terms of wool grading, baling, packaging and storage. The trainees were astonished to learn that there were more than one hundred varieties of wool available at Jemalong. We were informed that the machinery available at the facility was quite old as compared to the current day modern equipment, which gave us all a backwardness feeling for not even having access to the similar machinery back home.

We visited MonBeef, a private slaughter house, that provided quality halal meat not only within Australia but a major portion of the product was exported to America and surprisingly to the Muslim countries in the Middle East. The meat met strict compliance for Halal and the animal’s welfare.

The participants also visited Cooma Sheep and Cattle sale yard on two different occasions. Open auction for animal sale was quite interesting for the farmers of Balochistan and they felt that this system is in the best interest of both producer and consumer. The construction of yard itself was very simple and easily replicable in Balochistan. The herd recording system through electronic tags by the Government and transfer of title of ownership was quite impressive and easy for tax collection.
The way forward
A comprehensive training opportunity was provided to every participant, well organized and systematic transfer of knowledge made it possible for the participants to quickly learn a lot in a short span of time. However, only when we put these experiences into practice will the optimum benefits will be realized by the relevant community organizations. To do so we need to adopt a holistic approach instead of pursuing individual action plans.

There is great need to pool the resources of both the project and the Government of Balochistan. We need to apply participatory development approaches in the implementation of these techniques by utilizing the lead farmers as the Master Trainers. Thus quick action points would be:

- Experience sharing seminars both at Federal and Provincial levels to disseminate the information to masses;
- A comprehensive action plan on spreading the knowledge gained to all communities. Farmer field days to be arranged on shearing techniques;
- Invite international trainers for re-enforcing training to the participants;
- Use farmer Master Trainers for further training of wool farmers. The farmers can easily understand each other’s language.
- Develop better market linkages for provision of high quality wool from Balochistan with price premium for the farmers;
- Invite wool traders to Balochistan for better confidence building;
- Involve farmers/middlemen in the marketing process and establish linkages with merchants in Karachi and elsewhere for continuous supply;
- Involve Livestock Department on Wool Quality Assessment and certification;
- Expand project Wool Farmer Marketing Collectives to all potential districts.
- Build auction yards in the province utilizing the lessons learned from Cooma.

Ahmed Jan Essa
Mission Leader
Deputy Chief of Party, Balochistan Agriculture Project, Australian Assistance to Agriculture in Balochistan Border Areas
## Sheep and Wool Mission

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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>Quetta – final briefing for participants</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Quetta Final preparations</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>Quetta to Karachi PK 363 1350 – 1505</td>
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| 9    | W   | Karachi  
  am: Grain Quality Testing Laboratory  
  pm: Galaxies Logistic International |
| 10   | T   | Karachi to Bangkok CX 2700 0035 0715  
  transfer to Riva Surya Hotel  
  am: GV at FAO  
  pm: Team to meet with Muhammad Ali, Phavinee at Riva Surya |
| 11   | F   | Bangkok  
  Bangsai Art and Culture Centre  
  Fly Bangkok to Sydney QF 62 2200 |
| 12   | Sat | Arrive Sydney 1120  
  RES to meet airport, proceed to hotel. |
| 13   | Sun | Fly Sydney – Canberra QF 1475 1335 - 1425  
  Drive from Canberra to Bredbo Pancakes: the lady is donating a spinning wheel.  
  Drive Bredbo to Cooma.  
  Meet with Rowan McDonald to distribute clothing and briefing |
| 14   | M   | Cooma  
  Jemalong Wool, MonBeef Abattoir, Marabucca for shearing gang, South East Rural Supplies, Gurrabeal, Elders lecture on nutrition |
| 15   | T   | Cooma  
  Sheep team to start shearing at Gurrabeal  
  Wool team to work at Oakvale sheep farm |
| 16   | W   | Cooma:  
  RES: take Zahid Saleem and Masoud Baloch to Canberra for session with ACIAR  
  GV to take Sheep to Gurrabeal and Wool to Monaro Fibre Crafters  
  Dinner at Gurrabeal Farm |
| 17   | T   | Sheep - cattle sales, Gurrabeal for shearing  
  Wool – Monaro Fibre Crafters |
| 18   | F   | Sheep - sheep sales, Gurrabeal for shearing  
  Wool - with MFC  
  Emergency: RES took Ahmed to Canberra with broken heel |
| 19   | Sat | GV to Rob and GV drive team back to Canberra |
| 20   | S   | SHEEP Rob takes Sheep to airport to fly to Sydney  
  Airport to hotel in bus QF 1468 1030 - 1120  
  WOOL stay in Canberra |
| 21   | M   | SHEEP Sydney  
  Yennora Wool Store  
  Homebush Fruit and Vegetable Wholesale Market  
  Homebush Flower Market  
  Fly Sydney - Brisbane QF 540 1705-1755  
  WOOL Canberra:  
  Presentations to AusAid  
  ACIAR- Dr Peter Horne on Rangelands  
  Make arrangements for Ahmed’s release from hospital  
  Fly to Melbourne QF 2137 1620 - 1730 |
| 22   | T   | SHEEP  
  Fly Brisbane to Charleville QF 2579 0940 -1130  
  Goat Abattoir, Stock and Station Agent  
  WOOL Melbourne  
  Victoria Wool Processors  
  Australian Wool Testing Authority |
| 23   | W   | SHEEP Charleville  
  “Victoria Downs”, Morven  
  Mayoral reception  
  WOOL - Melbourne  
  Australian Wool Exchange  
  Fly Melbourne to Sydney QF 450 1630 - 1755 |
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<th>Date</th>
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| 24   | T   | SLEEP Charleville to Brisbane  
QF 2580 1350 - 2030  
Wool – Sydney  
Meat and Livestock Australia |
| 25   | F   | SLEEP Brisbane  
Eco-sciences Centre - Remote Sensing Laboratory, Uniquest, Mt Coota  
Fly Brisbane - Sydney QF 551 1755-2030  
Wool GV to Canberra to take Ahmed back to Sydney |
| 26   | S   | ALL Sydney  
Joint team debrief on Sheep and Wool activities |
| 27   | S   | ALL Sydney  
Fly to Bangkok QF 23 1415 - 1935  
Transfer to Riva Surya |
| 28   | M   | Bangkok  
FAO  
Team prepare for presentation |
| 29   | T   | Bangkok |
| 30   | W   | Bangkok – FAO presentation  
Fly Bangkok to Karachi CX 703 2000 - 2325 |
| 31   | T   | Karachi  
Presentation to US Consulate  
Galaxies Logistics International |
| 1 Feb | F   | Fly Karachi to Quetta PK 352 1800 - 1915 |
| 2    | Sat | Quetta |
| 3    | Sun | Quetta |
| 4    | M   | Fly Quetta to Islamabad  
Prepare for presentation |
| 5    | T   | Islamabad  
Presentation to donors |
| 6    | Wed | Fly Islamabad to Quetta |
Abdul Hameed

Occupation: Team Leader, Mastung District, Balochistan Agricultural Project.

Main lessons learned
At Jemalong Wool we learned about sorting and baling the wool. At MonBeef we learned about halal slaughtering.

On the sheep farm we learned to shear, how to hold the sheep and different step techniques of shearing. We saw how to look after the sheep. It was wonderful to see how just a few dogs can control so many sheep.

In Cooma we saw the system of sorting the cattle and sheep for selling, the actual selling method and then the transport system to take the animals away.

In Melbourne we learned about the different factors that affect the grade and price of the wool. Before processing the quality, grade and thickness of wool should be identified by wool testing authority with proper certification to meet the international wool testing organizations standards. According to the testing, wool needs to be processed and packed, so it gets a better price. Good sampling and proper sorting is very important.

Actions
Develop groups in the different communities for training in shearing and using the shearing machine system, especially the shearing steps. Two activists from each group should be given more shearing trainings. We need to training for Livestock Department EDO and Stock Assistants.

We need to link the wool activists with the Karachi and Multan Markets.

We have to involve the females in wool trainings and develop a collection point for wool processing.
Asima Gulistan

**Occupation:** National Marketing Associate, Team Leader, Quetta District, Balochistan Agricultural Project.

Wool has been my passion and I worked with farmer of Balochistan, specifically the women to bring about changes in their livelihoods through this activity. I have introduced interventions that have increased the income of participating women by 80%, but on the trail shipments. I want this to become common for each woman who intends to work with wool.

**Main lessons learned**
Australian trip was extremely successful for me to understand how the wool is classified into grades, what are the basic wool sampling techniques, apart from considerations for micron, what are the facilities that are required to assess the quality of wool?
I have also learned certain simple techniques to convert wool into high value products such as scarf and small rugs using loom. Learning is one aspect of the mission but putting these learning into practice so the women should get benefit from our knowledge is the major challenge & I enjoy taking challenges.

**Actions**
I am putting in place an action plan on 4th February involving every member of my group to take roles and responsibilities in replicating the knowledge that we have acquired. I am directly working with 700 women beneficiaries in my district but I will also impart training to my colleague CDMFs (15), each one of them is working with 150 women in that way I will be able to reach more than 2,000 women beneficiaries.
I have another example of expected value addition by the project. Currently wool is sent outside of Balochistan, which is converted into thread for hand-knotted carpet and sent back to Balochistan. If we are able to curtail this process and get it done in Balochistan, this will become an enormous economic opportunity for the women.

God willing, you will soon hear success stories as the outcome of this mission.
Fazeela Syed

**Occupation:** Community Development Market Facilitator, Balochistan Agricultural Project.

Fazeela is based in Quetta. She is responsible for 17 Women’s Community Organisations each with an average membership of 20 families. Fazeela’s communities make handicrafts, especially embroidery, manage the livestock, and raise poultry.

**Main lessons learned**

I learned different forms of spinning on different types of wheels. I also learned knitting, weaving, and felting that I will train my ladies in.

I appreciate the important role that women in rural Australian communities have and their equality with men. It is good to see the men acknowledged the women as equals. Australians are very positive and I like the way that women do things. I am impressed with the way that older ladies are active, much more active than those in my district. I appreciate the way that the older women are passing their indigenous knowledge onto younger women.

I saw how good packing and packaging in fruit and vegetables that result in higher prices.

**Actions plan**

I want to enhance the skills of women in order to improve their income. If women get higher incomes it will empower them. Higher incomes will enable the women to access better health and medicine and help pay for the education of the children.

I will try to get the older women in my communities to be more active and to pass on their skills to the younger women.
Ghulam Shahwani Farooq

**Occupation:** Farmer. Farooq grows cash crops such as apples, grapes, onions, and watermelons. He has around 300 sheep and goats, but mainly sheep. His main breed is the Baluchi, both the pure white, and the black and white. Farooq employs up to three shepherds.

**Location:** Farooq Abad Community Organisation, Mastung District. The Community has 25 households with each household averaging eight people. The Community has around 3,000 sheep and goats.

**Main lessons learned**

Farmers in my Community use traditional methods of shearing. This is a very slow method of shearing. The wool comes off in very uneven lengths. We have to change that. Use of battery operated shearing machine would not only reduce the time spent, but also add to the skills of these farmers. It would also take away the likelihood of any pain to sheep.

I liked the classifying of wool into different positions on the animal and the colour of the wool. We have to change to this system. I also liked the idea of baling as this saves money in transport. We need to bring the wool of the community into one place so we can do baling. I really liked the idea of sheep have tag numbers. This way the bank can provide loans based on the tag number. It also means that we can track the movement of animals.

The auction system was really good. We need to do that by bringing all the animals into the one area. We have to sort the animals into different group.

The slaughter house was really clean.

The information on rangeland management was very good. It is good to know what the forage will be like under different conditions and how we can move our animals to the good areas. It would be really good for us to get one of the experts to come to Balochistan to train our people.

I saw that controlling the sheep herd by a trained dog was impressive. This was very new for us farmers. Using just four commands by the master, the dog held the entire herd where it was meant to be.

**Action plan**

I will train my community on classifying. We will use white, black, and brown. Then we will bale with a different bale for each colour. Baling means our transport costs reduce.

I want to get a group together with the government so that we can have an area that we control the pastures. We will train shepherds how to raise the sheep and shear them.
Gulshan Rani

**Occupation:** Livestock Assistant and Community Development Market Facilitator

NB Because it is difficult for government livestock offices to talk to women, the Project has appointed Rani as a Livestock Assistant.

**Location:** Quetta.

**Main lessons learned**

I learned how to knit and weave much better. I also learned how to spin using the foot style wheel. Because we have been donated spinning wheels, I can pass these skills onto my communities.

I learned to shear the Australian way. I think that this makes me the only female shearer in Pakistan. I want to teach this skill to other ladies. NB. The Project purchased a special hand piece shearing equipment that is more suitable for the female hand.

I learned a lot about animal nutrition. In Balochistan we keep all the sheep together. This includes lambs, mothers, and rams. We should separate these. We should also make sure that we feed the three different types of animals [lambs, mothers, rams] different food. When I get back to Balochistan I shall work with Dr Taj [Dr Taj Hassani, the project's National Animal Expert] to plan supplementary feeding.

I saw new techniques of slaughter houses. I really liked how clean they were.

I learned about ultra-sound testing of pregnant mothers to determine the baby’s position. In Australia they try to limit the number of babies to each sheep to around six. We do not do this in Balochistan. This is not good for the animal’s welfare.
Habib Ur Raman

**Occupation:** Farmer. Habib grows wheat, apples and apricots. He has around 170 sheep and a few goats. He has many breeds but they are all white.

**Location** Saragurgi, Quetta District. There are around 30 households in his community running around 3,000 sheep and goats.

_Near my house there is a piece of land that a number of our neighbours share. When we use this land for our sheep and goats we all have to agree on how we do this._

**Main lessons learned**

Some of the things I learned included how to use my feet when shearing sheep, feeding, and how to bring water to the sheep. I learned how to look at the sheep’s droppings to understand what type of nutrition I have to give the sheep.

I saw that only a few people do a lot of work to look after all the sheep. I was very happy to see just how important the dogs are to help the sheep owners. We have dogs in our community so I was wondering if we could train these to look after the sheep.

I liked the fact that farmers can sell their animals themselves and deal directly with the buyers. When I go back I want to sell my own animals. I will wash my animals before selling them. I will ask my neighbours if they want me to sell their animals as well.

_Because of the visit to MonBeef I now know more about halal and I really believe what I saw was halal._

**Action plan**

I want to teach my community how to do the Sheep Steps. I want to make a video of this. When Pat and Rowan come to my place I will teach them these steps in Pashtoon.

We need to increase the use of ear tags with chips in them so we can make better decisions about managing the sheep. We must increase the use of recording of information such as breeding, feeding, and vaccinations. I want to start a yearly chart of these.

_Because we have the common piece of land we should think of reducing the number of our sheep on that to see if we can increase the amount of wool we get._

_We should also see if we can shear as a group by bringing in all the community’s sheep at once and use the new shearing equipment._
Haji Muhammad Yousaf

**Occupation:** Farmer. Yousaf grows cash crops such as tomatoes, watermelons, chillies. He has around 150 sheep and goats with more sheep than goats. Baluchi is the main breed.

Yousaf is also a local wool merchant. He buys wool from others in his community and then sells this to larger wool merchants in the Punjab.

**Location:** Killi Saya Pachad Community, Mastung. The Community has 25 households with an average of 8 people per household. It has around 3,000 sheep and goats.

**Main lessons learned**

The main lesson I learned was the shearing techniques, especially the steps because it is the feet that control the animal.

I learned a lot about the different types of wool. I really enjoyed learning about the concept of washing, grading, sorting and baling. We need to be more careful of our grading. We saw in one place that there were up to 100 different types of wool.

I learned that we need to control the pasture grazing of the animals – we just can’t let the sheep and goats eat what they like.

I really liked the auction system we saw. It involves the council, the growers, and the brokers. Growers do pay tax but every one gets to see the prices because the system is so open.

**Action plan**

We need to think about having a platform where three or four people do the shearing and other people do their special jobs such as gather the wool, classifying the wool, and then baling it. We need to reduce the number of people holding the sheep. We should not shear by piece but do the whole fleece in one go.
Mohammad Ibrahim

**Occupation:** Self employed mechanical engineer

**Location:** Quetta

**Main lessons learned**

*The Bangsai Art and Culture Centre in Bangkok provided the opportunity to observe and learn as to how small investments can bring better returns at the community level and also at a smaller industrial level. Observing variety of equipments at the centre and also during visit to Australia helped him gather some basic information for making similar sort of equipments in Quetta.*

I liked the very old style shearing shed where there were four stands running off the one power plant. We could do this in Balochistan.

I saw three types of baling machines – manual, hydraulic, and electrical. The manual one is best suited for our area because of the poor electricity.

**NB: the project has purchased a manual baling machine and bearing pullers.**

I learned the process of maintaining combs and cutters. The Australian grinder is very different to the ones we have in Balochistan. It is based on a plate which we paste the sandpaper onto to. The means we do a better job on doing the hollow grind needed for combs and cutters.

**NB: the project has purchased a manual baling machine**

I saw at Victoria Downs Station a automatic feeding device. I think I can make one of these in Quetta.

I got good ideas on how to design a shearing shed, especially the shute so that when the animal is shorn it cannot come back into the shed.

I also got ideas on how to build a saleyard using pipes.
Occupation. Wool Mission, Woollen Centre, Jang, Punjab
The Centre employs around 50 people. It scours and washes the wool. The Centre undertakes wool processing, weaving, spinning and finishing.

Main lessons learned
I learned how to classify wool that comes from the fleece.

I enjoyed learning about the sampling techniques that went to the lab for testing. I learned then how the wool is tested.

I really enjoyed learning about wool processing. We do not do carbonising in my Centre.

Action plan
I want to start using the classification and sampling techniques. We do some sampling but it is not like in Australia.

I also want to start objective measurement like they do in Australia. I want to test for micron, tensile strength, and the length of the fibres.
Saman Bakhtawar


Location. Quetta

Main lessons learned

Knowing about the importance of Fibre strength and Micron at the Wool Testing Laboratory was quite interesting. It was opposed to the common belief where people back home attach more importance to Micron only.

Wool testing involved high degree of care and testing at very minute level. Workers seemed to be leaving nothing unturned when it came to the screening of vegetable matter from wool.

Shearing procedure enabled me to analyse our handling of the sheep in our areas of work. With so much of the sheep available to us, only a little is achieved out of it. Shearing a sheep in lesser time with support of equipment was interesting and also informative.

I learned about the new policy as regards export of live animal by the Australian government that involved healthy and very interesting discussions. Holding the exporter responsible, under the new policy, till animal in exporting country is actually slaughtered is shocking.

The role of women in sheep and wool industry was far more than my expectations. They worked shoulder to shoulder with men. At times their roles were more dominating than men. There was nothing that a man could do and the woman could not. Sharon’s farm is a testimony to this effect.

Although we had seen Rowan and Sharon’s example of working together of the farm, the role of their dogs was of equal importance. Handling of the herd by a dog in the absence of his master was amazing. It speaks of the high degree of focus and techniques of trainers while training these dogs.

The visit to the Bangsai Arts and Craft Centre in Bangkok was memorable. It's amazing to see the trainings to poor people on cottage industry and agriculture such as basketry, silk weaving, sculpture, thai mask making, miniature dolls, woodcarving, oil painting, glass sculpture etc.

I was deeply touch when a crafter donated huge pile of knit wear for orphanage in Quetta
Yasmeen Yousaf

Occupation. Community Development Market Facilitator, Mastung

Yasmeen manages 22 Women Community Organisations with an average of 20 households per Organisation. Her Community Organisations undertake embroidery, livestock management, poultry raising, and kitchen gardening.

Main lessons learned
My Community members do not do good packing of their handicrafts. They are very busy and do not spend time on packaging so they get poor prices for their efforts. We need to improve the packaging.

I saw that ladies are very satisfied in Australia. Because the older ladies have things to do they are very patient with me trying to learn.

I thought that spinning was something just for older ladies but I think that this is very good for young ones to learn this so they can earn more money.

There is wool left in the houses that it wasted. I learn how to felt so we can now turn this wasted product into something useful.

Action Plan
I want to spend time teaching the young ladies the new skills I learned.

I want to be able to improve the packaging for the gifts that we make.
Zahid Saleem

**Occupation.** Head, Foreign Aid, Planning & Development Department, Government of Balochistan.

Current focus is formulating a Comprehensive Development Strategy for 7-10 years for Balochistan. As a base document for the Comprehensive Development Strategy, the Department is also formulating an Agriculture Development Strategy for Balochistan. Whilst the Balochistan Comprehensive Development Strategy would be a single document explaining developments vision of the province; prioritised sectors: the resource potential; and the way to capitalise on that potential, the Agricultural Development Strategy would provide an action plan on the agriculture development in Balochistan.

**Main lesson learned**

**Shearing:**
*It was my first ever exposure to any shearing site. Was amazed not only at the skills, but also in technology advancement in the shearing industry.*

**Implication for Balochistan:**
*We possess higher number of sheep in Pakistan; but have been unable to tap the potential in this sector. Our sheep and its wool are just being wasted a great deal. Government needs to provide certain incentives to the sheep growers and facilitate shearing related technology import for Balochistan, to increase income generation of the poor farmer, to start with, and for taking it to a bigger level, for processing the wool.*

**Rising number of Abattoirs processing Halal Meat:**
*Rising Halal meat processing at the Abattoir is encouraging. MonBeef visit was quite interesting in this context. Availability of Muslims to actually for performing the first cut (slaughter) and then verifying/certifying the process adds to the strength of this growing industry. Similarly animal welfare, packaging, and ensuring health standards at the abattoirs has a lot, for us to learn.*

**Implications for Balochistan:**
*With so much of sheep and goat in Balochistan, we have not been able to address the growing demands of neighbouring provinces and regions. Illegal transport of livestock to other areas has not only put the entire sector at a loss, but also poor growers of the livestock have not been able to reap the benefits of cumbersome process of rearing these animals. This is high time that we seriously thought about it.*
No Agriculture Subsidy:
Farmers in Australia are not as lucky as our farmers. There is no subsidy AT ALL for the Agriculture Sector. Farmers have access to certain loans from Banks though, but still it is not the government that subsidizes certain things for these farmers. However, government provides funds for R&D purposes on a matching basis, so as to keep the agriculture sector and farmers remaining progressing despite rapid shift and focus to other sectors of economy.

Implications for Balochistan
Agriculture subsidy in Balochistan and the “no tax on agriculture” approach are two main areas that need to be revisited as early as possible. In Balochistan, we need to think as to how long we going to sustain our current practices as regards water use for agriculture purposes. How long can we stay as the fruit basket of Pakistan with continuous depleting of the aquifers, and the incentives to extract more water each year.

RangeLand Management-Lessons from China:
Managing the herd size so as to increase the returns is something that was done in China. Smaller but healthier number of livestock not only affects range lands but also has a lot to do with economies of scale.

Implications for Balochistan:
It is more with changing behaviour, which is not easy always. However, in Balochistan, similar sort of project can be launched on pilot basis, and the lessons learnt can be replicated at a larger scale.

Efficient Water Use:
No major construction for the past twenty years to store water. Over 95 percent of the water used is surface water and not ground water. Serious penalties on unauthorized extraction of ground water is needed. Sale and Purchase of Water in the Water Market amongst farmers ensures efficient use of water, and in a way, avoids distortions too.

Implications for Balochistan:
Balochistan being dry like most parts of Australia has so much in contrast as regards water use. My comments above (no agriculture subsidy) may please be read for this too. Our main source of water is ground water except in case of Jaffarabad and Naseerabad. Our annual flood run off is about 10 MAF, out of which we are able to store only about 1.5 MAF. Rest is goes down to the sea. We need to store this water for replenishing our aquafiers, so as to keep majority of our population connected with the ag. sector.

Policy Formulation:
Getting the industry as major stakeholder in Policy Formulation so as to share the expertise and also share risks. Consulting wider is the phenomenon before taking a final decision. Industry interacts with certain companies that specialize in a given field, say meat processing/export, and companies interact in turn with growers/producers. So in a systematic way, the concerns and aspirations of all stakeholders reach the government and Industry, who in turn frame any given policy. Secondly, Government provides the overall policy, in consultation with Industry, whereas guidelines to address the policy are set up by Industry.

Implications for Balochistan:
Information sharing, getting the feedback, and discussion on various standpoints with concerned stakeholders should be practised at all levels of policy formulation. Though setting up growers associations, companies, and the entire chain may take a bit longer, but still the government can share information and have perspectives on any given policy before it is finalized. Recent Multiple Indicators Cluster Survey (MICS), District Development Profiles (DDPs), and upcoming Comprehensive Development Strategy (CDS) are some of the examples where government had consulted a wide range of stakeholders. This should be the process for strategies, plans and the policies.
Zubair Ahmed

**Occupation:** Farmer. Zubair grows tomatoes, okra, carrots, and wheat. He has around 60 sheep and goats but mostly sheep. His sheep are Baluchi. Zubair also has a shop selling mobiles.

**NB:** The Australian trainers stated that Zubair is a “natural shearer with good blow techniques... within six months he could earn a living in Australia as a shearer”.

**Location:** Saragurgi, Quetta District

**Main lessons learned**

*I learnt that it is only the use of legs and knees that control the animal during shearing.*

At Charleville I saw the proper use of having watering facilities for the sheep. I think we should have windmills like we saw there.

*I really liked the use of the dogs. They are so good and they help the farmers a lot.*

The cattle sale was good. I liked the way that the auction system worked. It was good to see all the buyers were present.

The remote sensing to look at managing the rangeland was really interesting. This is a good way to plan and something we should have in Balochistan.

Rowan and Pat and Greg were so patient with us. They never got cross if we cut the animal, they always encouraged us. I really want to show them how much we learned and how well we have trained our farmers.

**Action Plan**

*I want to make a shearing group that will go from shed to shed doing the shearing. We need around 20 in the group. What I want to do is link up with the group that was taught by the FAO how to do drenching so we can offer the farmer all the services.*